(b) whether the apprehension of the people around Koodankulam as to the hazards of nuclear pollution has been removed; if so, what steps have been taken in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what steps are proposed to be taken to eliminate this fear of nuclear pollution from the minds of the people around this plant area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) The present target schedule for commissioning of the Atomic Power Plants at Koodankulam is December, 1998 for Unit-1, to be followed by Unit-2 in December, 1999.

(b) and (c) A systematic programme to educate the public at large about the safety aspects of nuclear power plants is being made. The VVER type of Soviet Reactors presently planned for installation at Koodankulam have an excellent record of safety. After going into the technical aspects, environmental clearances from the State Government as well as Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, and safety clearance from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board for the Koodankulam site have been obtained. It is planned to continue the public awareness programme in the neighbouring villages around the site.

Filling up of vacant posts of Section Officers in the Central Secretariat Service

37. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of vacancies in the grade of Section Officers in the Central Secretariat Service which were proposed to be filled up through limited Departmental competitive examination which were held in December, 1989; and

(b) what is the number of vacancies which are reserved out of them for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) 79.

(b) SC: 26; ST: 13.

Environmental clearance of irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh

38. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh which are pending clearance with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and since when these are so pending; and

(b) what is the present stage of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No irrigation project from Andhra Pradesh is pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for environmental clearance.

Completion of Atomic Power Plants

39. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 117 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th December, 1989 and state what are the atomic power plants which are under construction and by when their construction and of the four additional atomic power plants which Government have decided to set up, is likely to be completed?